You only told me lies, only phony alibies

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by lefemmerouge

Summary

Sugar confronts Elder and the other high fairies about the barrier between humans and fairies. After her request to see Saga one last time isn't granted, she accidentally causes the barrier between these two worlds to be broken, and sees Saga again... but things are more complicated than she guessed. Can she restore the barrier before it is too late? Will Saga think she is real? Or just a figment of her imagination? This fic, one of the few for this series, will answer those questions and more.

Notes

Like the first fic (listed in the inspirations), this is taken from a song of Joan Jett's first EP, "I Love Rock'N Roll 92" which was only released in Japan in 1992. Specifically I took from a lyric of the song "The Only Good Thing (You Ever Said Was Goodbye)" which is on that EP. I plan to write two more fics of the Lyrical Titles community to complete this challenge, centering around the titles or lyrics of the other two songs in the EP: "I Love Rock 'N' Roll" and "Talkin' Bout My Baby". Like I said in my other fic, I'd definitely recommend you all watch this nice, cute series. Its a classic (either found on HIDIVE, less-than-legal sites, or through DVDs you buy) and more should see it.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update on 12/14/24: This fic was cross-posted on Squidge World.

See the end of the work for more notes

- Inspired by Love Is Pain by lefemmerouge

Sugar was dedicated to completing her mission. She would not let anything deter her in her effort to talk to Saga one more time. She could care less about the established rules separating the fairy and human worlds. She *needed* to see Saga again, even if only for one day. She wasn't sure if the Assembly of Fairies would listen, but she hoped that the High Fairies and Elder were reasonable enough to accept her request.

These fairies were a bit of a hurdle for Sugar to overcome. That's because the High Fairies...were high. They were smoking a special blend developed by the fairies. They didn't have any dispensaries or anything like that in the fairy world. There were some fairies dedicated to developing this blend, which differed from anything in the human world. The same was the case for anything considered "edibles," "gummies," or whatnot.

"High Fairies, I have a request to make," Sugar began. The fairies and Elder looked at her strangely. What would a seasons fairy, especially one that dealt with snow, have to ask of them this time of year? *Didn't she already have enough on her plate?* They weren't sure. Funny enough, Elder, despite his age and demeanor, wasn't stoned. He was the *only* one who wasn't (apart from Sugar).

"Sugar, what is it? Is it something about being a season's fairy?" He didn't have any idea what she was asking, but he had to figure it out.

She answered him quickly. She had to get time with Saga, no matter what the cost. "I want a temporary break in the human-fairy barrier...to see Saga one last time." She followed this up, adding, "can you do it...for old times sake?"

Elder wasn't sure. The other High Fairies were puzzled and too out of it to make a rational decision. "I'm not sure I can do that, Sugar...we have rules here...we *can't* just make exceptions." Then, almost to make a point, in case anyone else was listening, "If we make an exception for one fairy, then others will exploit the system...we can't let that happen."

Although this decision was a disappointment for Sugar, she wasn't altogether surprised. Even so, she had to call them out. "If the barrier is that important, then why even have fairies go down to the human world and get twinkles? Why not cut off all contact entirely?" She knew her hypothetical was far fetched, but she had nothing to lose from challenging them like this.

While the other High Fairies sat out this argument, rather wanting to smoke their special fairy blend, Elder directly responded. He had refute what she was saying and ensure that the system stayed intact. He couldn't let it fall apart. It would be a calamity of utter proportions. "Saga, you have to understand..." he began.

He was cut off when he saw Sugar fly in, grab the crystal orb off its pedestal, which had kept the barrier intact. She stuck out her tongue at him. Perhaps she hadn't matured much from four years before.

He pleaded with her to return the orb. If she broke it, that would be *bad* news. "Please, Saga, return the orb...let's talk about this...be reasonable!"

She shook her head. She shouted back, "you all only told me lies!...what did I see in all of you?...for everything I went through!" As tears streamed down her cheeks, she yelled "I won't miss you...no not I...It's time to...fly!"

Her little wings fluttered as she carried the immensely heavy orb down to Earth. She struggled to hold onto it. She had thought of this plan on the fly and...hadn't put much thought into it. Before she knew it, the orb fell out of her hands and went toward Earth like a meteor falling from space. She desperately tried to stop it, but to no avail. Not long after, the orb hit the town's bell, the same one that Elder had set near all those times four years ago.

The object was smashed into a thousand little pieces. She could hear cries of surprise from humans across the town as they spotted seasons fairies. Some ran in terror. Others remained curious. She sat on the ground, cradling herself. She wondered if this was worth the fight. Perhaps she was the *only one* to blame. She got out herself out of this funk after reminding herself that she wouldn't have gone so far if they had just accepted her minimal request.

At that very second, she was shocked out of her morose state when she heard a familiar voice. It was Saga. She had come out onto the street to see what the commotion was all about.

"Fairies?...I thought I couldn't see them...after..." Saga began. Suddenly, she felt a peck on her cheek and looked over. It was Sugar. She looked *exactly* like how she remembered her.

"Sugar...is that you?" Saga asked. Sugar responded happily, peppering her cheeks with kisses, one after another. She thought it *must* have been her imagination until she put out her hand and squeezed Sugar tightly.

The fairy yelped. She couldn't help herself. "Hey! What are you are doing? I'm just trying to say hello here!"

Saga knew. This *was* Sugar... it couldn't be anyone else. It *had* to be her.

"But...how are you here? I thought when the flowers bloomed and you went to the fairy world..." Saga started to say.

Sugar shook her head. She wasn't sure if she should tell Saga the truth. However, she didn't want any arguments with her, at least not now.

"Well...I kinda broke the orb that held the barrier between the human and fairy worlds together," Sugar admitted. *What did she have to lose from being honest?*

Out of nowhere, a black-haired girl came from behind, putting her hands over Saga's eyes. She playfully teased. "Guess who?"

Saga laughed just like how Sugar remembered. "I know it's you, Greta!" That name rang a bell with Sugar. She knew she had heard it somewhere...

Just then, Saga kissed Greta on the cheek. She *knew* Sugar was watching and did it, on some level, to show her affection.

Saga was surprised. Is giving people kisses a thing that... friends do?

As she went in and began doing the same to Saga, Greta was startled. Who was this... thing kissing her girlfriend on the cheek? As she trued to grab Sugar, Saga stopped her.

"Greta...there's no need for that. Sugar is...my...fairy friend...the one I told you about." Greta vaguely remembered what Saga meant, although she hadn't heard the name "Sugar" for some time.

"I wasn't sure she was...real." Looking at Sugar up close, she was surprised. "So...what's up with the cheek kisses?" she asked.

Sugar defiantly declared, "its because I *LOVE Saga!* It's been four years...and I'm finally back! I just came to pay her a visit."

Greta went in for more questions before Saga could stop her. She *had* to know their relationship. Who was Sugar to her? She could be a bit protective of Saga, at times.

"So...you love her...like are you sexually attracted to her or romantically?...like are you drawn to her body... or are you just drawn to Saga's personality?"

Sugar was a bit confused. She didn't know what all these words meant. It was a *lot* for her to take in. "I like Saga as a person...I had...and have...a strong emotional connection with her."

Saga came close to Greta, whispering in her ear. She told her that this all might be new to Sugar, and reassured her that Sugar had no interest in Saga's body. The only physical closeness they had was either sleeping near one another or when Sugar kissed Saga on the cheek or sat on her shoulder or head. But, she'd never gone any further. This seemed to calm down Greta.

"Sorry for Greta...she can just be a bit protective," Saga explained. Sugar understood, but was a bit surprised to see them together. *Didn't Greta tease her...all those times? Why her?*

Sugar was still puzzled. "So, I don't get one thing...how can you be with Greta...didn't she annoy you constantly?"

Saga moved her head side to side. She had to explain this to her, then they could go on their way. "I mean...yes...but when we started talking...after you left, we realized how much we clicked...and that we had a connection...that has only deepened over time...I love her as much as she loves me...we are attracted not only to each other's personalities, but our bodies as well."

While this still went a bit over Sugar's head, she could tell that Saga was happy. And that's all that mattered to her. What they didn't talk about was the fact that there was, not only, a difference between sexual and romantic attraction, but those attractions could overlap and interweave. For instance, some were romantically attracted to those of any gender, but only sexually drawn to women. Everyone, and every being by extension (in some sense), fell across the spectrum. Romantic attraction could be felt without sexual attraction. In another world, having no romantic attraction for other people (or beings) would be described as

"aromantic." Others experienced a romantic draw but did not need a sexual connection. Such people could still be physically pleased by sensual, but not sexual activities, like kissing, cuddling, messages, and other contact, apart from sexual intercourse.

The worlds that Saga and Sugar inhabited did not have exact words like "aromantic," "asexual," or "demiromantic." Even so, there were people like Sugar out there, which either didn't experience romantic attraction very often, experienced such romantic connection (but didn't want relationships), or wanted relationships which didn't easily fall into the platonic or romantic categories. More specifically, there were those who only experienced such romantic connection after developing an emotional connection, with Sugar somewhat falling into this label. Such people were not lonely nor unemotional but could form strong non-romantic bonds which went beyond what's typically defined as friendship.

Saga had one request of Sugar. She didn't know how much longer this fairy would be around. Perhaps this was only a temporary thing. "I'd like you to meet my grandma...and everyone else...is that okay?" Sugar happily nodded.

On their walk around, they could see some people terrified of these flying creatures (i.e. fairies) and others having a genuine curiosity. Some even tried to catch the fairies with nets, something which Saga, Greta, and Sugar worked to stop the best they could. Saga and Sugar recalled their adventures together. Greta realized how much Sugar had done for Saga and how they had helped each other. This is despite her annoyance when learning that Sugar engaged in some shenanigans which embarrassed her in the past. But that was then, and this is now.

They saw Regina in front of the cottage where Saga still lived. She didn't mind taking care of her grandmother. Regina was out tending flowers. She had been skeptical that seasons fairies existed. This was Saga's chance to prove her wrong, and show that her beliefs on fairies were faulty.

"See, Grandma, here's a fairy, right here!" Saga pointed at Sugar, who flew over to Regina, hovering in the air. She had seen Regina before, of course, but wasn't sure whether she would be nice or not.

"Hi, Miss..." Sugar began. Regina cackled loudly. *Was she imagining things? Was there really a fairy there?*

"Oh, Saga, you are just playing tricks on me...my eyesight is bad...is that what you are trying to tell me?" She wouldn't be convinced without further action. Sugar went for it, putting a nice kiss on Regina's cheek and flew back, not wanting to be swatted or anything.

Regina was surprised. She hadn't expected that. Perhaps... Saga had been right all along. She sighed. Her mother had told her about fairies, including, funny enough, Sugar's mother, another snow fairy. Neither Sugar nor Saga new of this connection. She didn't believe her mother then, thinking she had something wrong with her.

"I'm sorry Saga...your mother once talked to me about fairies...like this cute one here...but...I thought she was making stuff up...how wrong I was." She began crying. Saga had to console

her. The memories, of when she told her mother off about fairies, came flooding back, something which she now regretted.

Following this, and after she showed Sugar to every person she knew, *proving* that she existed and *wasn't* imaginary, Saga turned to Sugar. She wanted to help her restore the barrier between the human and fairy worlds, even if she *never* saw her again. All of their time together, while short, had been completely worth it.

"Sugar...how can I help?...didn't you talk about an orb that broke?"

Solemnly, realizing their time would soon end, she nodded. While huffing, Greta decided to help out. It was the least she could do for her girlfriend, although she still wasn't sure about Sugar. Her belief was somewhat unfounded if she knew who Sugar was, as a fairy. If she knew Sugar was a troublemaker...it might have caused to realize how much Saga went through all those years ago when this rambunctious fairy unexpectedly came into her partner's life.

"It's...up in the clock tower...I'll fly up there." As Sugar flew to where the shattered parts of the orb still sat, Saga and Greta made into the tower and climbed the stairs. Since the tower itself was in a historic building, and said building was open to the public, they had no issue getting inside. Additionally, since it was a weekend, there weren't any museum guides to dissuade them.

As they gathered at the top of the clock tower, they saw the mess of shards before them. Sugar attempted to move them, but little happened since she was small and could only move so much. Somehow, without cutting their hands, they were able to concentrate all the shards together, thanks to a broom and dustpan Greta grabbed on the way there. She wanted to help end this, believing that...there wouldn't be any competition for her partner. This was, again, a silly notion, because Sugar didn't love Saga sexually, nor romantically as a partner. While you could say that Sugar only platonically loved Saga, as a friend, you could also say they had a deep emotional connection. That couldn't be ignored. What she felt for Saga could be somewhere between romantic love and platonic love. Where she exactly fell between platonic and romantic love, was uncertain. Those specifics didn't really matter to her, nor to Saga.

Soon enough, the shards had been gathered together. However, putting the orb back the way it was, before it shattered, would be a challenge. Suddenly, if it was magic, the orb reassembled itself! Saga, Greta, and Sugar were immediately transported to the fairy realm. This was unprecedented for the fairies (and definitely for humans).

Sugar opened her eyes. The High Fairies and Elder were in front of her. Saga and Greta were on different sides of her, one on her left, the other on her right. Elder began speaking. These shenanigans had to end before... more permanent damage was caused and there wasn't a barrier at all. He and the High Fairies agreed on that, at least.

"Sugar, will you promise to *never* do something like this again?" Sugar nodded. "Yes, Elder, I won't."

"Very well. We have been talking. We'd be willing to open up the barrier between the human and fairy worlds for a set number of days every year. Would that be acceptable?"

Saga smiled. She had only been asking for *one* day, but to be able to even spend a few days a year with Saga would be great! Perhaps stealing that orb had been worth it... after all.

"Yes, Elder. Thank you." He turned to Saga and Greta.

"I'm glad you both helped her today...I'm especially grateful to you, Saga, for everything you did for Sugar all those years ago. She *never* would have become a seasons fairy without you."

Greta was a bit annoyed by this comment. She guessed that this fairy didn't know her very well, unaware he had been sometimes watching her, and Saga, during his visits to the town. He never saw anything indecent, as he had grown out of his misguided crush on another fairy in the past. He just remained glad that Saga was happy with her life, knowing that Sugar had helped make that so.

Elder used his magic, as did the other High Fairies, to transport Saga and Greta back to Earth. Saga shouted, "hope I see you soon, Sugar!" In response, Sugar grinned, although she felt a little sad that her time with Saga had come to an end, at least for now. Undoubtedly, the Assembly of Fairies would need to craft new rules for fairy-human interaction. The future for Saga, Sugar, Greta, other fairies, and everyone else in the town, would be in their own hands...

End Notes

The scene of the "high" fairies was loosely inspired by some spam comments advertising cannabis products I got on one of the places I post my fics (not on AO3, but on another site). Otherwise, the text of what Sugar is saying is loosely adapted from Joan Jett's song. Other parts were inspired by pages of Rebecca Burgess's "How to Be Ace: A Memoir of Growing Up Asexual," with page 21 saying asexuality generally means "you have no interest in sex... [but] it's often more complicated than that" and noted the labels of demisexual, demiromantic, aromantic, and grey ace as examples. Also, on page 44 she differentiated between romantic and sexual attraction, saying that romantic attraction [also known as romantic orientation] is what happens when you "have a strong emotional feelings for someone," attracted to their personality and you want an intimate (and emotional) connection, while sexual attraction [also known as sexual orientation] is when you have strong sexual feelings for someone, i.e. you are "attracted to their body and want to be intimate with them" by becoming physically close with them. Burgess also adds that for many people there is interweaving and overlap of these sexual and romantic attractions, which could be why it isn't common knowledge that there is a difference, with many only experiencing romantic attraction but also people who only experience sexual attraction, and even those who have different feelings for different genders (like someone romantically attracted to *any* gender but only sexually attracted to women). She closes by adding "everyone falls somewhere on this spectrum in their own way." I was also inspired somewhat to add asexuality into the story considering the recent GLAAD report noting only FOUR asexual characters across primetime scripted broadcast programming for the 2023-2024 season and the "Relationship FAQ" put together by the Asexual Visbility and Education Network.

I originally changed this, due to a prevalence of unwarranted and outrageous spam comments, so that *only* registered AO3 users can leave comments. At the time I said that I was sorry to those good people who want to leave comments but are not registered on AO3, and that the spammers are ruining it for everyone. Since then, commenting has been opened up again. If spam comments come in, again, I will change it back.

Works inspired by this one

Greta, Saga, and a Cheek Kiss Which Changed Everything by lefemmerouge2

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